

English Translation of the Friday Sermon Delivered by Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad - Khalifatul Masih IV, On 23rd July 1982 in Rabwah - Pakistan

Behold you are those who are called upon to spend in the way of Allah; but of you there are some who are niggardly. And whoso is niggardly, is niggardly only against their own soul. For Allah is Self-Sufficient and it is you who is needy. And if you turn your backs He will bring in your stead a people other than you, then they will not be such laggards as you.

The Holy Quran. Muhammad: 39.

To pay the contributions less than the standard that has been set up is nothing but cheating God. Of course the fact is that there is nobody who can claim success in cheating Him. Those who do so are deprived of the blessings of God and they fall back into adversity; be it financial or a spiritual one.

The verse recited at the outset at the outset of my sermon makes mention of the believers who lag behind because faith has not entered their hearts. They are told that God calls them to spend in His way while they show niggardliness. They do not realize that it is not their money that God stands in need of. He is Self-Sufficient and the work of His religion will be carried out even without their contributions.

The Prophets of God are *Bashīr* [Heralds of Joy] as well as *Nazīr* [Warners]. No nation can make any progress without both these aspects coming into operation. At times people have to be warned of serious and harmful consequences while at other times they have to be given good news of heavenly reward and the pleasure of God. Last Friday I talked to you from the point of view of giving good news. In other words, I spoke to you as the servant of the *Bashīr* (The Holy Prophet as *Bashir*) and now I want to talk to you as the servant of the *Nazīr*. The Caliph has to be completely obedient to his Master. The Holy Prophet ﷺ is my Master and I am bound to follow him.

Let it be properly understood that the finances of our Community are based on piety, and that being the case I want to draw the attention of the Community to the fact that whatever they pay as contribution should be paid with piety being the basis of this act. God says that He knows it quite well as to what part of your earnings is lawful and what part is not. He is the One who knows the open as well as the hidden. Of course it is left to you to decide as to which part of your earning is good and lawful and worthy of being presented to God. You should keep a watch over it.

Jesus Chris is reported to have said that the people should not amass their wealth on the earth where it can become very rusty and it can be eaten up by moth or stolen by thieves. They should keep their wealth in the heavens where no moth can eat it nor can a thief steal it.

The advice is good, but it is not comprehensive. Islam being the most perfect religion, the advice that it gives in this respect is most comprehensive. *The Holy Quran* says: Never shall you attain to righteousness until you spend out of that which you hold dear (Āl Imran [Family

of Imran]: 93) You should pay out of what you love very much, then and then alone it can be said that you have really made a sacrifice and then alone it can become acceptable to God.

When the standard of payment has been fixed by a Caliph, it does not behove the believers to pay less than that. It will simply be a breach of their pledge and an effort to cheat God.

It is nobody's business to point to anyone. It is the duty of everybody to analyse his own life and find out where he stands.

If every member of the Community paid his contribution at the fixed rate, the amount collected would be doubled.

As for the people who are already paying what the Community demands (the rate fixed for the payment of contributions) they are not being asked to pay more.

I ask the members of the Community to continue praying for God's blessings in the journey that I am to undertake in connection with the inauguration of the Basharat Mosque, Spain.

I exhort the members of the Community to exercise forbearance and mutual accord while I am away on this auspicious tour.